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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

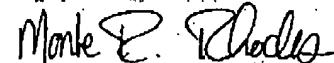
Of the 28 original claims, claims 1, 2, 6, 17, 19 and 21 are amended. Claims 5, 12-16, 20, 22 and 26-28 have been cancelled. Dependent claims 29 and 30 have been added. With this response, claims 1-4, 6-11, 17-19, 21, 23-25 and 29-30 are now pending.

Applicant does not believe that any fees are due at this time. However, should any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be required for any reason relating to this document, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct such fees from Locke Liddell & Sapp LLP Deposit Account No. 12-1322, referencing matter number 021961-022US.

In light of the above remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections is respectfully requested. Applicant reserves the right to subsequently take up prosecution of the claims originally filed in this application in continuation, continuation-in-part, and/or divisional applications.

The Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned should any further action be required for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



Monte R. Rhodes, Ph.D.

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AGENT FOR ASSIGNEE,
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